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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /063 W
---------- 121549
O R 131016Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7392
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 10211

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, VN, RP
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF PHILIPPINE/VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS

REF: (A) MANIL 10112 (NOTAL); (B) MANILA 10022 (NOTA);
(C) MANILA 11047 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: ESTABLISHMENT OF PHILIPPINE/VIETNAMESE
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ANNOUNCED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF
JULY 12 BUT NOT DATE SET FOR OPENING OF EMBASSIES. GOP
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ACCEPTED WHOLE CLOTH VIETNAMESE "FOUR PRINCIPLES" AS

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BASIS FOR RELATIONS. LANGUAGE ON NON-AGGRESSION
NEVERTHELESS REPRESENTS SUBSTANTIAL SOFTENING OF
HANOI POSITION AS SET FORTH IN LAST YEAR'S MANGILA
COMMUNIQUE, WHICH GOP REPUDIATED. AT U.S. REQUEST DETAILED
REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WAS PRESENTED TO U.S. MILITARY
FACILITIES NEGOTIATING PANEL AND WILL BE SUBJECT
SEPTEL. BOTH MARCOS AND ROMULO DESCRIBED
LATEST TRIUMPH OF THEIR THIRD WORLD DIPLOMACY IN
TYPICALLY EXTRAVAGANT TERMS. GOP NO DOUBT HOPES THAT
NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH VIETS WILL HELP GAIN OBSERVER
STATUS FOR PHILIPPINES AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT.
GOP ALSO NO DOUBT RELIEVED BY AGREEMENT WHICH APPEARS
TO DIMINISH, IF IT DOES NOT REMOVE, THREAT OF HANOI
ATTACK ON PHILIPPINE-OCCUPIED SPRATLY ISLANDS.
REGARDING U.S. BASES, OUR INITIAL JUDGMENT IS THAT
VAGUE LANGUAGE BARRING AGGRESSION APPEARS TO PRESENT
NO PROBLEMS FOR INSTALLATIONS WHICH ARE BOUND BY TREATY
AND PRACTICE TO THE OPPOSITE MISSION OF REPELLING AGGRESSION. END
SUMMARY

1. JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED JULY 12 ESTABLISHING
PHILIPPINE/VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (REFTEL
A) IS WORD-FOR -WORD REPLAY OF "FOUR PRINCIPLES"
ENUNCIATED BY PHAN HIEN AS BASIS FOR GOOD RELATIONS
WITH REST OF SEA. HOWEVER, IT REPRESENTS SUBSTANTIAL
SOFTENING OF LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN ABORTIVE MANGILA
COMMUNIQUE OF AUGUST 1975 WHICH GOP SUBSEQUENTLY
REPUDIATED. LATTER CALLED ON PHILIPPINES
"NOT TO ALLOW THE UNITED STATES TO USE PHILIPPINE
TERRITORY AGAINST THE PEOPLES OF VIETNAME AND THE OTHER
INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES" AND BOUND GOP TO RETURN
ALL EX-GVN MILITARY HARDWARE TO HANOI. SECOND
PRINCIPLE OF PRESENT TEXT IS MUTUAL PLEDGE "NOT TO
ALLOW ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY TO USE ONE'S TERRITORY AS
A BASE FOR DIRECT OR INDIRECT AGGRESSION AGAINST
THE OTHER COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES IN THE REGION." THERE
IS NO MENTION OF U.S.

2. THIS HAS NOT PREVENTED GOVERNMENT-GUIDED MEDIA
FROM OBSERVING THAT LANGUAGE IS "PARTICULARY DIRECTED
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TOWARD THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
HERE" (TIMES HOURNAL). DAILY EXPRESS MAKES SIMILAR
OBSERVATION ADDING THAT VIETNAMESE DELEGATION "IMPLIEDLY
ACCEPTED THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCES THAT
THE BASES WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST THEIR COUNTRY IN
ANY WAY." DAILY EXPRESS ALSO CONCLUDES THAT NON-
AGGRESSION PRINCIPLE" IS A FORMAL GUARANTEE THAT
NO VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WILL TAKE PLACE, NOR

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RESORT TO ARMS BE USED IN THE DISPUTE ON THE SPRATLY ISLAND GROUP IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AT LEAST BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND VIETNAM."

3. JULY 12 COMMUNIQUE SIGNING (WITH SEVERAL CABINE MEMBERS PRESENT) WAS PRESAGED BY VIETNAMESE DELGATES CALL ON PRESIDENT JULY 11, TO WHICH ENTIRE CABINET AND (IN UNUSUAL MOVE) PRESS CORPS WERE SUMMONED. MARCOS TOLD PHAN ET AL THAT PHILIPPINE DESIRED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," AND THAT "UNITED VIETNAM IS NOW ONE OF THE STRONGEST POWERS, MILITARY, POLITICALLY AND IN EVERY WAY, IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD." ROMULO STATEMENTS WHICH ACCOMPANIED SIGNING WERE EQUALLY ENTHUSIASTIC, E.G., "YESTERDAY, WE ADMIT WAS BEYOND OUR CONTROL. BUT TODAY AND TOMORROW WE CAN TAKE INTO OUR OWN HANDS AND ARM IN ARM WE CAN MARCH TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES OF UNITY AND CONCORD BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES."

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ACTION EA-09

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 10211

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

4. AT MALACANANG MEETING, PRESIDENT PROMISED "MODEST DONATION" OF LOCALLY PRODUCED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (CEMENT, PLYWOOD, GALVANIZED IRON ROOFING AND NAILS) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS AND OFFERED TO SEND NEW RICE VARIETIES WHICH RIPEN IN 100 DAYS. (CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL PRESUMABLY IN ADDITION TO $15,000 WORTH OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES WHICH GOP PROMISED TO VIETNAMESE AT LAST MARCH WHO MEETING.)

5. PRESS CONFERENCE: AT PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 13, PHAN HIEN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
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(A) RE HANOI'S HOSTILE PAST REMARKS ON ASEAN, PHAS SAID VIETNAMESE NEWSPAPERS "HAVE RIGHT TO SPEAK OPINIONS" BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NOW SRV HAS RECIEVED ASSURANCES "FROM FRIENDS" THAT ASEAN IS NOT AN "ENEMY ALLIANCE" DIRECTED BY FOREIGN POWERS. IF ASEAN COUNTRIES PROVE THEIR NEUTRALITY, INDEPENDENCE AND NON-EXISTENCE OF FOREIGN BASES, SRV WILL CONSIDER--(SENTENCE LEFT UNFINISHED).

(B) RE THAILAND, PHAN SAID "WE (THE DELEGATION) HAVE COME TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND THE THAI WILL COME TO HANOI" (NO DATE MENTIONED). PHAN SAID ALL THESE "DIRECT CONTACTS" BENEFICIAL.

(C) RE EX-ARVN WEAPONRY, IT IS NOW IN HANDS OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ("THE RIGHT HANDS") FOR DEFENSE OF THEIR COUNTRY. WHENEVER THERE IS PROPERTY THAT BELONGS TO VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR ITS RETURN. "OUR FILIPINO FIRENDS HAVE ASSURED US THAT BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND VIETNAM THERE IS THIS NO QUESTION AS SUCH." (SIC)

(D) RE SPRATLYS, TERRITORY IS SACRED TO EVERY NATION. HISTORY SOMETIMES LEAVES COMPLICATED MATTERS THAT REQUIRE CAREFUL EXAMINATION. BUT IF THERE ARE DISPUTES, THERE SHOULD BE NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS TO SOLVE THEM ON BASIS OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT AS STATED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

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(E) RE ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PHAN REFERRED IN
ADMIRING TONES TO TOURS OF PHILIPPINE SUGAR MILL,
TEXTILE MILL, COCONUT PLANTATION, INTERNATIONAL RICE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ETC. HE REITERATED MARCOS' PLEDGE
OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AND (REFERRING TO MEETINGS
WITH SECRETARIES VIRATA, PATERNO AND LEIDO) EXPRESSED
HOPE OF FURTHER ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HE SAID INITIAL
TALKS ON CIVIL AIR COOPERATION HELD AND PHILIPPINES
AIRLINES (PAL) HAS ALREADY BEEN ASSURED THAT OVERFLIGHTS
OF VIET TERRITORY WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

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(F) COMMENTS ON SRV RELATIONS WITH U.S. COVERED
IN SEPTEL.

(G) PREPARED VIETNAMESE CLOSING STATEMENT REPEATED COMMUNIQUE
AND THANKED PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS FOR THEIR "BEAUTIFUL
WORDS TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM."

6. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR ENOUGH THAT GOP ACCEPTED HANOI'S
"FOUR PRINCIPLES" WHOLE CLOTH, BUT IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT
NEW WORDING IS SUBSTANTIALLY SOFTER THAN FORMER VIENTMAESE
POSITION EXPRESSED LAST YEAR IN MANGILA COMMUNIQUE. ON FACE
OF IT, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO INCOMPATABILITY BETWEEN NON-
AGGRESSION LANGUAGE AND MISSION OF U.S. BASES, WHICH ARE BOUND
BY TREATY AND PRACTICE TO REPELLING AGGRESSION.
AMBIGUOUS VIET STATEMENT ON EX-ARVN WEAPONS (PARA 5C ABOVE)
INDICATES ONE POSSIBLE PROBLEM AREA FOR WHO WHICH WILL
BE SUBJECT SEPTEL. MARCOS NO DOUBT SEES COMMUNIQUE AS RELEVANT
TO SPRATLY PROBLEM, WHERE POSSIBILITY OF HANOI
AGGRESSION MAY BE A CONCERN. HE AND DFA ADVISERS
ALSO NO DOUBT HOPEFUL THAT LATEST TRIUMPH OF GOP THIRD
WORLD DIPLOMACY WILL PUSH PHILIPPINES OVER THE TOP TO
OBSERVER STATUS AT COLOMBO NAC MEETING. IN SHORT, ESTABLISHMENT
OF RELATIONS WITH SRV APPEARS TO FIT ESTABLISHED GOP
STRATEGY OF ACQUIRING NEW FRIENDS WITHOUT DROPPING OLD,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS HAVING YOUR CAKE AND EATING IT TOO.
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